

G.I.A. WATCHDOGS INVITE FULBRIGHT

Dispute With Foreign Policy Panel Apparently Ended

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (UPI)—J. W. Fulbright and two other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were invited today to closed sessions of the Senate subcommittee that watches over the Central Intelligence Agency.

The invitation to the Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the foreign relations panel, apparently ended a long dispute over supervision of the spy agency.

Senator Richard B. Russell, Georgia Democrat who heads the informal watchdog group, said the three foreign policy experts were being invited to a session Monday with Richard Helms, director of the C.I.A. In addition to Mr. Fulbright, invitations were extended to Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, senior Republican on the foreign relations committee, and to the Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana.

Plan Rejected Last July

Last July, after considerable controversy, the Senate voted down a proposal that would have enlarged the present watchdog subcommittee to include Foreign Relations Committee members. The 61 to 28 vote followed a five-hour debate, most of it conducted in an unusual closed session of the Senate.

At that time, members of the Foreign Relations Committee contended that they should have a role in overseeing intelligence operations because they said the operations involved foreign policy. Mr. Russell called the expansion proposal an attempt to "muscle in" on jurisdiction of the Appropriations and the Armed Services Committees.

The six-member C.I.A. group is drawn from the latter two committees.

Mr. Russell said the representatives of the Foreign Relations Committee would be invited to attend all watchdog subcommittee sessions—even those that deal primarily with appropriations.

"My present purpose is to invite them to all of the meetings—at least for this session of Congress," Mr. Russell said when asked if the new arrangement would be permanent.

Mr. Russell said the three invited Senators would "be afforded a full opportunity to participate and to ask questions."

The Monday session with Mr. Helms will provide the subcommittee with a full briefing on world events, Mr. Russell said, including the intelligence aspects of the war in Vietnam, the turmoil in Communist China and the Rhodesia situation.

MORI/CDF